1	2	3
9.	West Bengal	The State Govt, has informed that 60 children of Ramachandrapur Primary School of Nadia District fell ill on 28.2.05 due to food poisoning as the food got infected by insecticide spread by an owner of the Banana Plantation firm located close to the school. An FIR has been lodged against the owner of the plantation firm. In another case, 85 children of Metyadahar Primary School of Paschim Midnapur District fell ill on 4.5.05 after consumption of mid-day meal. The State Government had reported that the incidentwas inquired and no criminal intention or willful misdeed was found.

Vocationalization of secondary education

3360. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme of vocationalization of Secondary Education at +2 level in the country; and

(b) the criteria adopted in selecting institutions and courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in February, 1988. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments for introduction of vocational courses in the higher secondary stage. Since inception of the scheme, about 9500 schools have been approved to conduct 21000 sections with an enrolment capacity of around 10 lakh students.

(b) Selection of the institutions and courses is the prerogative of the State Governments. However, under the scheme, initially 82 courses were identified. Presently, about 150 courses are being offered.